

The Birth of a Nation

A Study in Genesis 25-36

A Sister Defiled and a
City Destroyed
Genesis 34:1-31
April 25, 2021

MAIN POINT: Knowing that we live in a beautiful but broken world, where horrendous acts of sin are committed, we are to be wise in our pursuit of biblical justice and opposition to evil as we wait for the return of King Jesus.

I. A SISTER DEFILED (vv. 1-4)

- An Ominous Beginning (v. 1 [cf. Gen. 27:46])
- The Rape of Dinah (vv. 2-4 [cf. Gen. 3:6; 6:2; Jdg. 14:1-3])

II. A DESPICABLE AND DECEITFUL DEAL (vv. 5-24)

- A Passive Father (vv. 5-6)
- An Appropriate Indignation (v. 7 [cf. Gen. 6:6])
- An Ignorant Father and a Wicked Son (vv. 8-12)
- Deceitful Brothers and the Perversion of the Holy (vv. 13-17 [cf. Gen. 17:9-14])
- The Pride of Canaan (vv. 18-24 [cf. Gen. 9:25])

III. A CITY SORE AND DESTROYED (vv. 25-29)

- An Ungodly Vengeance (vv. 25-26 [cf. Gen. 49:5-7; Deut. 22:25-29])
- An Unholy Plundering (v. 27-29)

IV. A DISORDERED FAMILY (vv. 30-31)

- Jacob has no fear of God (v. 30).
- Jacob's sons have no fear of God (v. 31).

V. A BEAUTIFUL BUT BROKEN WORLD AND THE LONGING FOR OUR KING

- In a beautiful but broken world, we seek justice and oppose evil in all biblical wisdom *and* we leave the work of avenging to the Lord (cf. Deut. 32:35; Rom. 12:14-21).

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please Read Genesis 34:1-31

1. The narrative of Genesis is sordid and difficult to read, but what are your initial thoughts after reading the chapter?
2. What are we to make of Jacob's passivity? What about the anger of Jacob's sons?
3. What are the inherent problems with terms of negotiation put forward by Hamor and Shechem?
4. Why is the use of circumcision in the deceit of the sons of Jacob so perverse?
5. Do you find yourself more akin to Jacob and his passivity or to Jacob's sons and their brutality? What is the appropriate biblical response, and how does the fear of God inform our response?
6. How are we to then live in this beautiful but broken world? Spend some time discussing how we, as Christians, are to seek biblical justice (i.e., justice defined biblically), oppose evil, and leave vengeance to the Lord.